

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

*Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.*

Family:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

People:

Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

Family: **We name this candle Hope.** *(light the first candle)*

People:

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.
But we chart our path by the star of hope.
Even when better days seem very far away
and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises,
we set our face steadily towards the light.

Family:

Listen now to the prayer of an ancient poet:
“For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.
God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 67:5-8).

ALL:

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to *become* the signs of hope that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope. Amen.**